

made no decision on whether to subscribe to the code. Only after the text is finalized and open for subscription will the Administration consider whether to subscribe to the Code. Such a decision will be made only after it received full U.S. Government approval that takes into account perspectives from all departments and agencies.

As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in January 2012, the United States will not sign-up to a Code of Conduct that any way constrains our national security-related activities in space or our ability to protect the United States or our allies. If the United States were to make a decision to subscribe to a Code in the future, it would be implemented in a way that is fully consistent with this statement.

Let me also assure you that we are in close contact with our Department of Defense and Intelligence Community colleagues on the development of the Code to ensure the Code does not have any adverse impacts on U.S. operations, including the development and testing of missile defenses.

Should you wish to have further discussions on this issue, we would be prepared to assemble an interagency team to meet with you or your staff. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

JULIA FRIFIELD,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR VITTER: I wanted to follow-up with regarding the conversation I had with your staff regarding a potential debris generating anti-satellite (ASAT) testing moratorium and the European Union's proposed International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.

As Assistant Secretary of State Julia Frifield noted in her December 10, 2014, letter to you, the Administration has no plans to propose the negotiation of a debris-generating ASAT testing moratorium at this time. Should we determine to pursue such an agreement in the future, I pledge to keep you and your staff informed, including on the form of which a potential agreement might take.

With regard to the Code of Conduct, it is my understanding that there are no implementation issues for the Department of Defense related to the current draft of the Code. That said, only after the text of the Code is finalized will we have a full understanding of any potential implementation issues. Therefore, we continue to be in close contact with our colleagues at the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community to ensure that our efforts to promote the security and sustainability of outer space do not have an adverse impact on our national security activities, especially on our missile defense and national security space systems.

Before a final decision is made to subscribe to the Code, the Department, along with our interagency colleagues, will make sure to provide a briefing, including relevant materials such as the text of the Code and other materials, to you and the relevant committees on the terms of the agreement, its implementation, and any other issues of interest.

I appreciate your interest in these issues. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff in the future with any questions you may have.

Regards,

FRANK A. ROSE,
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Space and Defense Policy.*●

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

TIM JOHNSON

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I also wish to pay tribute to a man I have admired throughout my career in this Chamber, Senator TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota. I am proud to call TIM my friend.

Long before Senator JOHNSON and I crossed paths in the Senate, we were both studying at Michigan State University—I was an undergrad while Senator JOHNSON was doing postgraduate studies. In fact, his parents retired in the East Lansing area. I know that Senator JOHNSON considers the University of South Dakota to be his alma mater, but I will always think of him as a fellow Spartan.

All of us here are committed to public service, to defending the Constitution and to protecting our Nation against foreign threats, but few of us have had our commitment tested as Senator JOHNSON has.

In 2004 Senator JOHNSON learned that he had prostate cancer, but he was determined to beat it and to continue representing the people of South Dakota. “I wish this was something that wasn't happening to me,” he said. “But I will deal with it head on,” and he did. He had surgery, then he made a full recovery, and was soon back to work.

In 2006 we were all shocked to learn that Senator JOHNSON suffered a brain hemorrhage—and for weeks we hoped and prayed for him and his family. Incredibly, he again made a full recovery—and he again came back to work.

That is commitment. That is a Senator with a deep appreciation for the privilege of serving the people of South Dakota. That is TIM JOHNSON.

Despite the personal health issues Senator JOHNSON experienced, he succeeded in leading passage of the Safe and Fair Deposit Insurance Act of 2005, a law that 3 years later was critical to keeping America's deposits safe during a time of great economic turmoil. As chair of the Senate banking committee we have relied on his leadership and judgment in reducing risk in the financial sector and in ensuring that Dodd-Frank reforms were implemented effectively.

I will miss our work together to improve the health care of American veterans, and I will miss the opportunity I have had through the years to work with Senator JOHNSON on empowering small family farms to compete in the modern marketplace and to help ethanol producers expand their place in our Nation's renewable energy future.

Knowing how important it was for ranchers to be able to tell consumers their meat products came from the U.S.A., Senator JOHNSON has been a champion of country of origin labeling since going back to the 2002 farm bill, and since then he has helped to strengthen and fully implement the law, a mission that carried over to the 2014 farm bill that I authored as chair of the agriculture committee.

In addition, Senator JOHNSON has been a forceful advocate for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration rules that ensure that family farmers and ranchers are able to compete on a level playing field.

I know how much Senator JOHNSON has loved policymaking, so I know he must have agonized over this decision. But I also know that the love and devotion he has for his family comes first, and now he will be able to spend more time with his wife Barbara, his two sons, his daughter, and all his grandchildren.

TIM, thank you for being such a strong, resilient, and resourceful partner and friend through the years. I wish you a happy and successful retirement with your family.

MARY LANDRIEU

Mr. President, at the end of this session of Congress, the Senate will be bidding farewell to my colleague and dear friend, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, who has served the people of Louisiana with such devotion over the last 18 years.

I don't think it is possible to overstate the magnitude of the challenges that she has faced on behalf of her constituents. Hurricane Katrina may have been the most horrible natural disaster our country has ever experienced—and Senator LANDRIEU's native city of New Orleans was ground zero.

No one was more engaged in the recovery effort that followed that calamity. Senator LANDRIEU fought tenaciously to secure the funds it would take to repair and revitalize the gulf coast with infrastructure improvements that would protect the coast against another major event.

In the 10 years since Katrina, Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion for homeowners who were struggling to afford flood insurance, most recently by winning passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, this past March.

Of course, just as the gulf coast appeared close to making a full recovery, it was struck by another disaster—the Deepwater Horizon oilspill. Again, Senator LANDRIEU was on the vanguard of that recovery, winning passage of the RESTORE Act so that the vast majority of the fines collected by the U.S. Government would go back to the gulf coast to help pay for the cleanup. It is the single biggest investment in environmental restoration in American history.

These were the moments when the people of Louisiana needed MARY LANDRIEU most—and she delivered as only she can.

At the same time, Senator LANDRIEU has always understood that the oil and gas industry is vital to her State's economy, and so it was a major milestone when she became the first woman to chair the Senate energy committee.

She fights so hard for Louisiana, but over the years of working with her, I have learned how much she is driven by a deep feeling of compassion, not just

for those displaced by hurricanes or those whose livelihood was jeopardized by the Deepwater Horizon but for the children of her State and our country who were given up for adoption or placed in foster care.

Senator LANDRIEU knows the joys of adopting firsthand, having adopted her two children, Connor and Mary Shannon, and she wants other parents to feel that joy. So she sympathizes with parents who wish to adopt a child but who are struggling to do so—especially since she knows there are children desperate for parents but who remain wards of the State. By matching those parents with that child, she knows that she can create a true family.

So she has led the efforts in the Senate to improve child welfare systems internationally and to make it easier for American parents to adopt children in other countries. She has pushed for Federal funds to create foster care mentoring programs, so that children who are in the foster system have better guidance during the most critical years of their social development.

I know I speak for other Members of this Chamber when I say that we will do our very best to continue the momentum that Senator LANDRIEU has created for finding a permanent, loving home for every American child.

I will deeply miss having her with us but I have absolutely no doubt that MARY LANDRIEU will find new ways to express her devotion to the people of Louisiana and our country. It is not just a tradition in her family; it is her singular passion. I thank her for her amazing service here and I look forward to all the great achievements that are in her future.

MARK UDALL

Mr. President, I wish to express my gratitude to a dear colleague and friend who has been a champion for our national parks and for preserving the natural splendor of our Western lands: Senator MARK UDALL.

Just as the Great Lakes are part of my DNA, the Rocky Mountains are part of Senator UDALL's. He likes to quote the saying that we did not inherit this earth from our parents but that we are borrowing it from our children—and that is the perspective that has guided him as Chair of the Senate National Parks Subcommittee.

He has worked to expand national parks and to revitalize our natural resources. Recognizing that our dependence on fossil fuels poses a threat to our land, water and wildlife, Senator UDALL has been a leader in pushing for investments in renewable energy. I know how proud he was that Colorado was the first State to pass a voter-approved renewable energy policy. A key to making it happen was Senator UDALL teaming up in a bipartisan way with the speaker of the Colorado House.

When Colorado was struck by floods, forest fires, and beetle infestations, Senator UDALL fought to make sure the State had the Federal resources to

contain the damage and aid the recovery.

We learn a lot about our leaders during a time of crisis, and time and again, Senator UDALL has proven the strength of his character and his convictions.

In the wake of the mass shooting in Aurora, CO, Senator UDALL threw his support behind a ban on combat weapons, as well as an amendment to expand background searches for gun purchases. It was a bold position to take politically, but the Udall family has a long tradition of taking bold positions whose wisdom is borne out by history: His grandfather issued a court decision that recognized Native Americans' right to vote; his uncle challenged discrimination by Washington's football team; and his father helped integrate the University of Arizona.

It is fitting that in Senator UDALL's last full week with the Senate he gave a stirring speech on the floor, demanding transparency in the way that our Nation treats suspected terrorists. Senator UDALL has also been one of the Senate's most vocal advocates for civil liberties, arguing passionately that our government's conduct must always respect both our values and the Constitution.

Personally, I have had the honor of working alongside Senator UDALL as co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, teaming up on behalf of the National MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act. This past month we joined forces on an amendment that ensures women in the military will have access to quality health services, with a specific focus on maternity and preventive care.

I will miss our talks and our collaborations. But leaving the Senate will allow Senator UDALL to become an even more avid outdoorsman. While he has already climbed Mt. Everest and the 100 tallest peaks in his home State of Colorado, I have no doubt that he will soon conquer new and exciting challenges in the great outdoors.

And from listening to his farewell address, it is already apparent to me that Senator UDALL has achieved a clarity that will serve him forever after. "As a lifelong mountain climber," he said, "I have learned far more from the mountains I did not summit, than those that I did."

I know I speak for many of us here when I say that I have learned a great deal from Senator UDALL, and I thank him for serving Colorado and our Nation in the U.S. Senate—and for being a great friend. Happy trails, Senator.

KAY HAGAN

Mr. President, I also wish to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, Senator KAY HAGAN from North Carolina.

KAY HAGAN has quite a collection of hats. There is the hat she wore as a lawyer in Greensboro. She wore one hat as a banker, another as a State legislator helping to write North Carolina's State budget. And when she ex-

celled in each of these roles, the voters of North Carolina gave her another hat to wear, as their U.S. Senator.

KAY HAGAN joined us in January 2009, which was a difficult time for our Nation's economy. With her background in the banking sector and her knowledge of the housing finance system, she got right to work on rebuilding our economy, with a stronger foundation.

At the same time, she never allowed herself to be distracted from the needs specific to her North Carolina constituents. She recognized that North Carolina workers and small businesses were being threatened by unfair trade practices abroad, and she sought to address it.

She recognizes how vital military bases are to North Carolina's economy and to its culture, so she worked to protect them from cuts and closures. She was a leader for military families who care for disabled children, seeking to provide payments for them from the Survivor Benefit Plan. And it was Senator HAGAN who stepped up to help families at Camp Lejeune get access to health care, following one of the worst cases of water contamination in American history.

With two daughters of her own, Senator HAGAN knows about the demands of balancing child care with a career, and as Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families, she called attention to the need for paid leave. Senator HAGAN and I share important health care priorities: She cosponsored a bill to improve the care of mothers and babies by establishing higher quality standards for maternity care through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. And she has been a valuable ally on the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which would help doctors detect this disease earlier and provide more support for those taking care of a family member with Alzheimer's.

I had the distinct honor of teaming up with Senator HAGAN earlier this year to help pork farmers get disaster assistance after a deadly virus devastated their livestock. And we worked together to sound the alarm on student loan debt and to try to stop interest rates on Federal loans from rising.

We both come from States where hunting, fishing, and wildlife are important components to residents' quality of life. So I was pleased this past year to help Senator HAGAN push for her Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, which sought to expand access to Federal lands while taking significant steps toward conserving the land we use for recreation.

I deeply regret that I will not be able to work with Senator HAGAN in the next Congress. But knowing how dear public service is to her, and how deeply that tradition is established in her family, I have no doubt that she will find new ways to serve the people of her beloved home State, and our Nation.

Senator HAGAN, thank you for your service and thank you for being a wonderful friend. I wish you the very best of luck in all your future endeavors.●

MARY LANDRIEU

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my friend, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, my colleague from Louisiana, during her 18 years here in the U.S. Senate.

Senator LANDRIEU was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996. Prior to serving in the Senate, she had already served the people of her State for 16 years—first as a State legislator, and later as a State treasurer. Altogether Senator LANDRIEU's service to the people of Louisiana has spanned nearly 34 years of commitment to the people of Louisiana.

MARY served her constituents with utter conviction, dedication, and persistence—qualities that her colleagues in the U.S. Senate use to describe her.

However, Senator LANDRIEU's dedication can be described in other ways as well.

In her farewell remarks last week, Senator LANDRIEU discussed how faith and family helped drive her. She draws tremendous strength from her faith, and also her large and supportive family—a family that knows a thing or two about the ups and downs of politics.

Her father, Moon Landrieu, served as a judge, State representative, New Orleans city councilman and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Her brother, Mitch Landrieu, was Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor, and both her father and brother have served as mayors of New Orleans—her father during an era of renewal, and her brother during an era of rebuilding.

MARY has clearly stepped up to the plate during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the horrendous BP oil spill. Those are the kinds of challenges that none of us expect when we enter public life—but they are the challenges which show our communities what we are made of.

Senator LANDRIEU rose to both challenges. She has worked as hard as any Senator has ever worked to see that her constituents were taken care of. She has pushed hard on Federal agencies to help rebuild, and passed legislation to help with Gulf restoration. She has also fought to see that flood insurance rates remain affordable—not just for those in Louisiana, but across the country.

Her efforts have earned the respect of everyone she has worked with, and she earned the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as well as the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. I know that the issues she championed on these two committees were important to her constituents and I admire her advocacy for jobs in her State and more opportunities for small businesses.

Of course, Senator LANDRIEU's work extended beyond these two commit-

tees. For years, she worked on adoption, education, conservation, and other issues that were near and dear to her heart.

All of us will miss MARY's drive, tenacity, and willingness to work with others to get things done. She will continue to be a tough and relentless fighter for Louisiana no matter what her next challenge will be.

Aloha, MARY, a hui hou, "until we meet again."

MARK PRYOR

Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my colleague, Senator MARK PRYOR of Arkansas, who will be ending his tenure in the Senate at the end of this Congress.

The Pryor name is synonymous with public service in Arkansas. MARK's father, David, served Arkansas in the U.S. House, as Governor, and in the U.S. Senate. In fact, MARK succeeded his father in the U.S. Senate after serving in the State legislature and as attorney general.

Throughout his two terms in the Senate, MARK has been a workhorse and not a showhorse. As he noted in his farewell remarks, he is not one to attend many press conferences. But he certainly has done a lot of work on behalf of the people of Arkansas. In 12 years in the Senate he has worked to get 70 laws passed—many on a bipartisan basis.

His work improves the lives of Americans and our youth each day—from his work in consumer product safety, access to health care, veterans issues, and more. He has fought to protect Medicare, and to support Arkansas' farmers, small businesses, and middle class families.

That may be why in his 2008 reelection to the Senate he earned more votes than any statewide elected official in Arkansas history.

Senator PRYOR told us in his farewell to look inside our desks and see the names written in the drawer, to see the predecessors who have come before us. These names can serve as a reminder of what we all are here for and what large shoes we must fill, as well as how we must collaborate to get things done.

MARK has spoken about the fact that politics is about people—both the people we serve and the people we serve with.

While there are many good people serving here, we will all miss the work ethic, warmth, and charm that MARK brought to the Senate during his service.

It has been an honor serving as his colleague.

Aloha, MARK, a hui hou, "until we meet again."●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. DINGELL

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an amazing colleague from my home State of Michigan, who has served in Congress for 59 years, the longest tenure of any Member in history: the dean of the House, JOHN D. DINGELL.

In fact, his service to our Nation goes back even further: In 1938 he worked as a congressional page and on December 8, 1941, he was on the floor to hear President Roosevelt declare that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was a day that would live in infamy. In fact, a 15-year-old JOHN DINGELL helped record that speech.

Three years later he served America in Europe in the fight against Nazi Germany. He would have been in the Battle of the Bulge if he hadn't been hospitalized with meningitis. Then he joined the fight in the Pacific, making preparations to be in the first wave of American soldiers for the ground invasion of Japan—except that the Japanese surrendered before it could happen.

So JOHN DINGELL proved his patriotism long before he joined Congress in 1955, following the death of his beloved father, who preceded him as Representative for Michigan's 15th Congressional District.

It is hard to imagine, but Congressman DINGELL was a Member of Congress before Medicare and Medicaid existed. In fact, he helped vote those programs into law. When he joined Congress, the Interstate Highway System did not exist. Alaska and Hawaii were not yet States.

Congressman DINGELL is not merely a witness to history. He is a maker of it. His original family name, translated into Polish, meant "blacksmith," and this is a man who hammered out our Nation's laws, forging a stronger Union that could weather the challenges of the future.

I would like to list all of Congressman DINGELL's accomplishments, but I would be accused of staging a filibuster. For the sake of brevity, I will list only the most exceptional moments in Congressman DINGELL's legendary career.

Perhaps his most courageous vote occurred in 1964, in favor of the Civil Rights Act. Advisers told him that vote would destroy his chances at reelection, but he had more faith in his constituents—and he refused to compromise the principles of social justice.

Health care was a great passion—one he inherited from his father. John Dingell, Sr., introduced a bill for universal health care in 1943, and though it failed, he continued to fight for it until the end of his life, and JOHN DINGELL, Jr., adopted that cause from his first day as his father's successor, proposing a bill to reform the health care system in every Congress since 1955. He has always believed that every American should have access to health care. So I know that voting for the Affordable Care Act was one of Congressman DINGELL's proudest moments in Congress.

As a boy he lived through America's Great Depression, and as a Congressman he helped to overcome America's great recession.

He witnessed the rise of the automobile industry and saw how those unionized workers powered the rise of